



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd February 2025, Year C**  
**Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12 16-20; Luke 6:20-26**

**Parish Priest**  
Msgr Gerard Burns

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**Assistant Priest**  
Fr Alfred Tong

[Alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz](mailto:Alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz)

**Parish Office Hours**  
04 478 7137  
Mon to Thursday  
8.30am—2.30pm

[Office@stfrancisochariu.nz](mailto:Office@stfrancisochariu.nz)

## Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

**Sat: 5.00pm Vigil  
Mass**

**Sun: 10.00am Mass**

Mon:

Tue: Liturgy with St  
Brigid's  
5.00pm Reconciliation  
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation  
11.00am Mass followed  
by Morning Tea

Thurs 5.30pm Liturgy with  
Communion

Fri: 8.30am Exposition &  
9.00am Liturgy with  
Communion

Reconciliation can also be  
requested by arrangement  
with office 04 478 7137

## Reflection

### Be Compassionate

Today's Gospel reading, set in the context of Jesus' first sermon The Beatitudes, speaks of the new life to which Jesus is calling his recently chosen apostles and his disciples.

Jesus speaks of a kind of love that is so inclusive and generous as to be overwhelming.

Blessed are we who have the model of Christ's life for living our lives.

In early times this kind of living was known as "The Way". It was at Antioch that the early church became known as Christians – followers of Christ.

Jesus exhorts us to "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate" Luke 6: 36.

What follows, beautifully and succinctly portrays what being compassionate looks like: we suspend judgment; we refrain from condemning others; we forgive others (and ourselves); we give and we will receive in full measure.

When we live with compassionate love we experience the largesse of a generously loving God.

In the first reading from Samuel 26:2-23, David demonstrates compassionate love. Abishai his companion was all for taking the opportunity to spear Saul, their enemy, while he was lying on the ground sleeping and vulnerable. David advised Abishai against this action, choosing not to take advantage of the situation of power in which he (David) found himself.

Today let us reflect on David's song in praise of our God of Compassion and Love.

### *Psalm 102:*

*The Lord is kind and merciful; he heals every one of your ills; (he) crowns you with love and compassion; (he does not) repay us according to our faults.*

**Judy McCormack**

## Remembering the Holy Souls

**Recently Deceased:** Martin Ulenberg,

**Anniversary:** Norman and Rewa Cox, Anne Cordy, Ramon Domingo Cruz,

**Prayers for the sick,** Fr Frank Whitaker Tovia Fa'i ,Carmen Godinez, Anna Mika-Hunt Walsh, Lote So'oa, Madonna Aspinall, Fr Joe Savesi, Betty Stewart, Fr David Orange, Jocelyn Whitehouse, David Clarke, Saili Tafaese ,Moe Pio Tafaese, Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Peter O'Connell, .



**For the more information please visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisochariu.nz>**

## Parish Synodal Gathering Sunday 23rd February

**Sunday 23rd February 1.30-4.00pm:** Time to meet, listen and talk! St Francis of Assisi parish has many active groups and we have been together on one site for 2 years now.

We are a very multi-ethnic community and it has been some time since we had a general parish hui. As we look to a hope-filled, mission-shaped and courageous future, the parish pastoral council invites all to a Parish Synodal Gathering in our church building.

Part of this will be to listen to each other through the conversation-in-the-spirit model used in recent synod processes.

Afternoon tea and childcare will be provided.

## Children's Liturgy

Our mission is to make Jesus real to the children. During our children's liturgy sessions we promote a safe learning and supervised environment. We have a committed group of leaders

The sessions are designed for primary aged children. Children under 5 are welcome accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Taking place during the Sunday mass we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, pray and do activities that highlight the gospel of the day.

We would welcome and appreciate new leaders and assistants. For adult leaders police vetting is required. As assistants we would love to have senior primary and secondary school students. Contact Pat Collier Ph 02102989504 or [tchpat.collier@gmail.com](mailto:tchpat.collier@gmail.com)

## What is happening around our Diocese ?

Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events:.. <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/>

## Notices for the Newsletter/Deadlines

As our Parish Office is closed on Fridays, the Newsletter is now formatted & published on Thursdays (subject to change for Religious & Public Holidays.)

Can all items for the Newsletter please be emailed to the office [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz) by noon Wednesday to allow time for editing and proofreading. Thanks, Helen.

## Alpha

You are invited to **ALPHA**

Starting **Tuesday 18 February 7pm** and the following Tuesdays, in our Church Hall

Register: [alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz)

**Ask about life, faith and God, begin the adventure**



## Malvina Major Anointing Masses

The First Anointing Mass of 2025 at Malvina Major will be on **Wednesday 26th February at 2pm** in the Chapel/Reflection room, followed by afternoon tea.

## World Day of Prayer Service

Will be held on **Friday 7 March at 10:30 am** at **St Francis of Assisi Ohariu.**

It is 5 years since we have hosted this special liturgical service at our church where we welcome fellow Christians from 3 other denominations in Johnsonville.

This years' service is prepared by women from the Cook Islands with the theme,

*"I made you wonderfully".*

The service will be followed by morning tea. We look forward to seeing you there. **All welcome.**

## Internships available now.

Are you aged 18 to 24? Left college last year? **APPLY NOW** for the Challenge 2000 Society of Mary Gap Internship Programme. An exciting opportunity to be paid while you learn, develop and serve. Contact Kitty 021491459 or Gabe: [gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz) or apply at [www.challenge2000.org.nz](http://www.challenge2000.org.nz)

## Quote from Pope Francis,

Angelus, 20 Feb 2022

'The strength to love is the Holy Spirit, and with the Spirit of Jesus, we can respond to evil with good, we can love those who do us harm. This is what Christians do. How sad it is when persons and peoples who are proud to be Christians see others as enemies and think about waging war against each other!'

## Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 2.30pm

Email: [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz), Phone: 04 478 7137 **If you need to contact a priest urgently, such as for the Anointing of someone who is gravely unwell,**

**please call:** the Parish Office 04 478 7137 and select option 1

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

Parish Bank Account for Koha/Donations

**02-0524-0203642-00**

Account name: **Arch Dio of Wgtn St Francis of Assisi Parish**

